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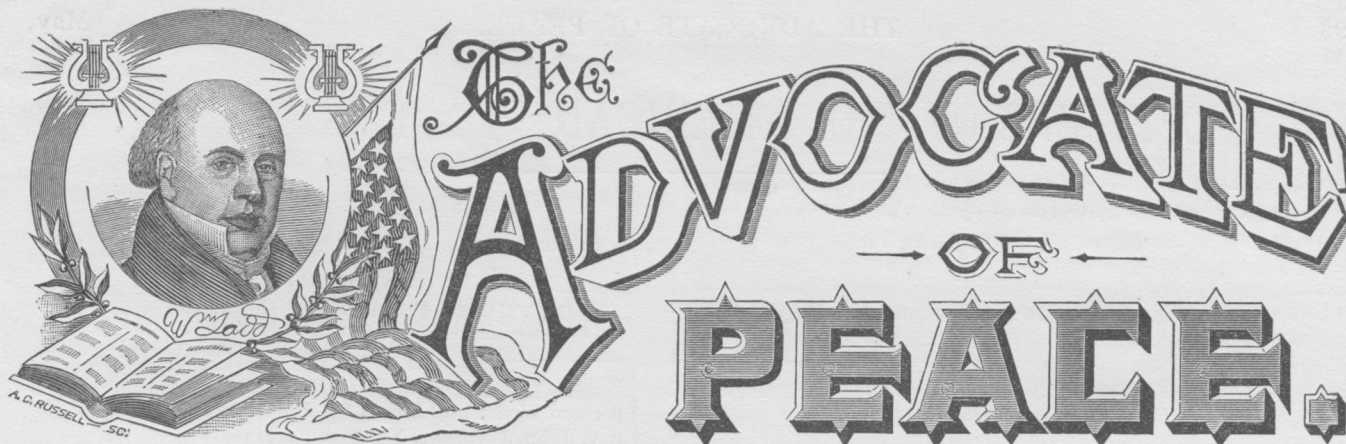
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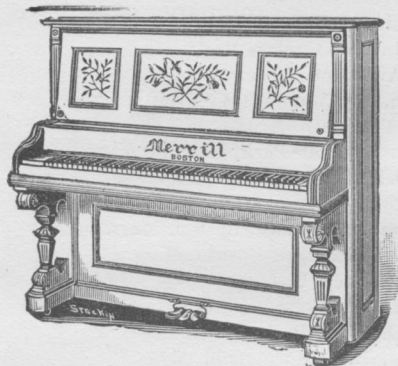
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VOL. LVII.

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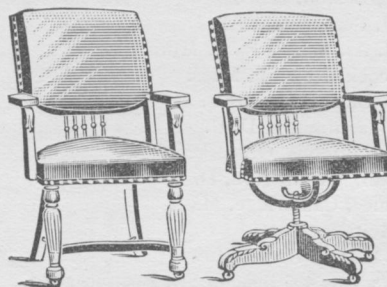
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## THE ARMAMENTS OF THE FUTURE.—WHERE WILL THEY STOP?

BY FREDERIC PASSY.

Translated from *La Conférence Interparlementaire*.

Under this double title, well calculated to invite attention, a superior officer, a retired colonel of cavalry, Colonel Thomas, honorably known for his important labors in connection with the newspaper, *Le Temps*, has just published, from the military publishing house of Charles Lavauzelle, a brochure well worthy of the careful attention of war men and of peace men.

I do not need to say that it is as a peace man that I think I ought to make mention of it, and it is as such that the author has done me the honor of sending me a copy of it. He wishes to know the opinion of an advocate of arbitration. He himself makes appeal to arbitration, we shall see for what purpose and under what conditions.

It will be guessed, without the necessity of calling attention to the fact, that it is the author's purpose to protest against the monstrous development of present-day

armaments, and that his utterance is a cry of alarm, coming from the ranks of those whose business has been war, in view of the dangers with which war threatens civilization. It would be a mistake, however, to suppose that the author repudiates war and comes and enrolls himself, intentionally, in the ranks of his enemies.

It is not war, however, which he arraigns; so he seems to think. But what he dislikes is the manner in which it will have to be carried on hereafter. War, that is the appeal to force for settling differences between nations; war, that is the meeting of two armies vying with each other for the supremacy, struggling for independence, for territory, for riches, for influence, not only does the good colonel believe in this, but he considers it one of the necessities of human existence; nay, more; he admires it, glorifies it, loves it. War to him, as well as to many of those who have been engaged in it, is one of the noblest manifestations of that energy which creates human greatness. It tests character; it cultivates patriotism; it produces heroes; it prevents peoples from being corrupted by selfishness. It has its sad aspects, certainly, but it has also its intoxication and its glory. A fine battle, in which are freely exhibited those brilliant qualities which are called war-like virtues, is one of those scenes which lift man above himself; it is, Colonel Thomas says in so many words, a *beautiful tournament* to which people go as to a *festival*.

This is all on one condition, however, which war, such as it threatens to become, will never again be able to realize; viz., that in this encounter in which the lot of the country even is sometimes at stake, men shall still count for something; that it shall be they, who, by their courage, their penetration, their decision, in a word their personal action, shall be the real agents in the struggle, instead of the blind and irresistible machines without conscience and without soul of which they shall be only the helpless victims; that "the foot soldier may be able to use his bayonet, the cavalier his sabre and his horse, that the artilleryman may not be liable at any moment to see his battery dismantled by a projectile whose effects a *savant* has quietly prepared in his laboratory, and that fine-looking men, healthy and vigorous, the strength and hope of their generation, may not be annihilated without fighting, by *treacherous explosives*."